

Black Hill Trail Renovation and Extension -- No. 058701

Category M-NCPPC
Agency M-NCPPC
Planning Area Clarksburg
Relocation Impact None.

Date Last Modified
Previous PDF Page Number
Required Adequate Public Facility

May 24, 2004
NONE
NO

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY03	Est. FY04	Total 6 Years	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	363	0	0	232	0	0	118	45	69	0	131
Land											
Site Improvements and Utilities	2,738	0	0	1,139	0	0	0	455	684	0	1,599
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,101	0	0	1,371	0	0	118	500	753	0	1,730

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000)

G.O. Bonds	3,101	0	0	1,371	0	0	118	500	753	0	1,730
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ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000)

DESCRIPTION

This projects renovates and upgrades an existing 2.38 mile hiker-biker trail in Black Hill Regional Park. The trail follows the eastern shore of Little Seneca Lake from Wisteria Drive north to Spinning Wheel Drive. For much of its length, the trail closely follows the alignment of a Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission sanitary sewer line. The trail is a well-used recreational amenity and provides the vital pedestrian connection between the surrounding neighborhoods of Waters Landing and Black Hill Regional Park. The existing 6-foot wide trail does not meet park standards and is seriously deteriorated. The trail renovation and upgrade provides an 8-foot wide trail that will fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (except in one area where full ADA compliance is not possible without extensive tree-clearing) and park construction standards.

A 1.2 mile extension of the Black Hill Hiker-Biker Trail within Black Hill Regional Park will be considered beyond six years. The new eight foot wide trail will connect two existing segments of the trail and provide the only hard surface trail connection from the Water's Landing community to the developed area of Black Hill Regional Park. The new trail extends from the existing trail terminus near Spinning Wheel Drive to Parking Lot 6 near the picnic area.

Service Area

Clarksburg and Germantown Planning Area.

JUSTIFICATION

Developers built the trail on private property from the late 1970's to the early 1980's as the adjacent residential communities developed; they conveyed the land and trail to the Commission in 1982. Most of the trail was built before the lake existed. The trail, which was constructed using little or no base and with a substandard asphalt layer, is seriously deteriorated. In some areas where the pavement is cracked, grass or weeds grow in the exposed soil. In other areas, the pavement at the trail edge has completely crumbled and is little more than gravel. Settling pavement creates sinkholes. There is an obvious deflection in the wood pedestrian bridge. As a precaution, maintenance staff are not permitted to transport maintenance equipment across the bridge. In addition, the trail was built before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines were developed. It is too narrow to safely accommodate the growing number of users, and contains several areas of steep slopes, three of which are near access points to the trail. The proposed eight-foot width affords minimum space for bicyclists, wheelchairs, strollers, maintenance crews, and emergency vehicles. The Black Hill Regional Park Master Plan (2002), Countywide Park Trails Plan (1998), Clarksburg Master Plan (1994), and Clarksburg Greenway Implementation Study (1998) envision a hard surface trail network that links the residents of Germantown and Clarksburg to Black Hills Regional Park. Renovation of the existing hard-surface trail is part of this larger network which will make the regional park accessible to thousands of residents and make the Clarksburg amenities accessible to those living in the vicinity of the park. The Black Hill Regional Park Master Plan, approved in 2002, make this project a priority.

The park consists of 2,338 acres including and surrounding the 505-acre Little Seneca Lake, which is owned and operated as an emergency water reservoir by WSSC. Approximately 425,000 people visit the park each year. In 1997 countywide park user survey, respondents indicated that they used trails more than any other recreation amenity: 67 percent had used paved park trails in the last year. Biking and walking paths topped the respondents' lists of desired facilities or greatest facility shortages.

The extension closes an important loop of the Black Hill trail. In approving the Black Hill Regional Park Master Plan, the Planning Board determined that a hiker-biker trail, rather than an access road, would link the Waters Landing community to the Park. The extension provides a section of this trail access. This project is a priority of the Black Hill Regional Park Master Plan, approved in 2002. The Black Hill Regional Park Master Plan (2002), Countywide Park Trails Plan (1998), Clarksburg Master Plan (1994), and Clarksburg Greenway Implementation Study (1998) envision a hard surface trail network that links the residents of Germantown

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA

Date First Appropriation	FY05	(\$000)
Initial Cost Estimate		3,101
First Cost Estimate		
Current Scope	FY05	3,101
Last FY's Cost Estimate		0
Present Cost Estimate		3,101
Appropriation Request	FY05	0
Appropriation Req. Est.	FY06	0
Supplemental Appropriation Request	FY04	0
Transfer		0
Cumulative Appropriation		0
Expenditures/ Encumbrances		0
Unencumbered Balance		0
Partial Closeout Thru	FY02	0
New Partial Closeout	FY03	0
Total Partial Closeout		0

COORDINATION

Community Associations
Trails: Hard Surface Renovation PDF 888754
Trails: Hard Surface Design and Construction PDF 768673
Montgomery County Department of Permitting
Services
Montgomery County Department of Environmental
Protection
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

MAP

See Map Next Page

and Clarksburg to Black Hills Regional Park. This trail is part of the larger network which will make the regional park accessible to thousands of residents and make the Clarksburg amenities accessible to those living in the vicinity of the park.

Plans and Studies

A review of impacts to pedestrians, bicycles and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act 1991) has been performed and addressed by this project. Traffic signals, streetlights, crosswalks, bus stops, ADA ramps, bikeways, and other pertinent issues were/will be considered in the design of the project to ensure pedestrian safety. Black Hill Regional Park Master Plan, approved 2002. Facility Plan, approved 2003. Clarksburg Master Plan, approved and adopted 1994. Greenways-Clarksburg Master Plan Implementation Study, 1999.

Cost Change

Not Applicable.

STATUS

Black Hill Trail Renovation: Facility Planning Completed.

Black Hill Trail Extension: Design.

OTHER

Design for the extension is under contract in the Trails: Hard Surface Design and Construction PDF 768673. The FY01-06 CIP approved design and construction funding for this project. In FY02, at the request of the Montgomery County Planning Board, the County Council eliminated construction funds for the trail extension because further studies were needed to improve the cost estimate and the Department needed to use the released funds to expand the scope of environmental assessments required for the Matthew Henson Trail.

Black Hill Regional Park Trail Plan

